

psychiatry. Some recognition might have been given to this fact, instead of confining the pathological description to a statement of a mere vascular and mechanical theory of the origin of this important disease.

Krafft-Ebing emphasizes the fact that the delusion of grandeur is not essential or specific in general paresis, as some seem to think. This chapter is perhaps too analytical—the picture of the disease does not stand out in its entirety so characteristic as we should have expected.

In treatment, Krafft-Ebing's book is very full. He evidently has great belief in opium, especially in melancholia, and he brings prominently forward in places the claims of hydrotherapy.

In conclusion, we can only repeat that this translation of this great work into French is a distinct gain, because it makes the book more accessible to a large circle of readers.

JAMES HENDRIE LLOYD.

LES NÉVROSES TRAUMATIQUES—ÉTUDE PATHOGÉNIQUE By Dr. Crocq., son. Paris. Société d'éditions scientifiques. 1896. Monograph crowned by the Paris Academy of Médecine.

In the book before us the whole subject of traumatic neurosis is given a critical review. On the ground of the casuistic material on hand which includes some personal observations of the author, the latter reaches the conclusion that a certain number of the nervous disorders which have been classed under the common heading, traumatic neurosis, depend on organic lesions. For this reason the name, "traumatic neurosis" is not appropriate; but it perhaps is not bad to continue, with the proper restriction, the use of the nomenclature, as the diseases concerned form a definite group from a medico-legal point of view.

The book is divided in to eight chapters. The first gives a historical review the second discusses the pathogenesis, the third the etiology. The fourth chapter gives the pathological anatomy, (as the author finds that a number of cases designated as traumatic neuroses are actually based upon organic lesions. The apparent contradiction, which lies in speaking of the pathological anatomy of traumatic neurosis is explained). The fifth chapter treats on the symptomatology, the sixth on the diagnosis, the seventh on the prognosis, the eighth on the treatment.

In classifying the traumatic neuroses C. makes two principal divisions:

A. Grave traumatic neuroses with commotion and probable organic lesions. (Névroses Traumatiques graves avec commotion et lésions organiques probables).

B. Pure, functional traumatic neuroses. Under these latter, the author includes:

1. Local traumatic hysteria.
2. General traumatic hysteria.
3. Local and general traumatic hysteria.
4. Traumatic neurasthenia.
5. Traumatic hystero-neurasthenia.
6. Traumatic chorea.
7. Traumatic epilepsy.
8. Traumatic Parkinson's disease.
9. Traumatic tics convulsifs, etc.

In characterising this group (B), the author states that it comprises all cases in which an organic lesion can be excluded. It seems somewhat

strange, however, to see, for instance, traumatic epilepsy classed here under the designation of a pure functional neurosis. Parkinson's disease looks also somewhat strange under this heading. Although the pathological anatomy of this disease is still rather obscure, we yet can hardly conceive that there should not be some organic lesion behind it which could not be discovered yet by means of the technic at our disposal.

C. attributes but little importance to the traumatism itself in the causation of the diseases of this group. He finds on the contrary that the emotion connected with the circumstances under which the traumatism took place, is the chief etiological factor.

It is quite otherwise with group A, the grave traumatic neuroses dependent upon organic lesions. There the manner of the traumatism is etiologically of great importance, while the moral emotion plays an insignificant part. As has been affirmed by Vibert, the traumatism producing these forms of the disease were of a nature to produce a more or less violent physical concussion as, for instance, railroad accidents, in-breaks, falls, explosions, violent shocks on the head, and the like.

It would lead too far to enter upon the symptomatology, etc., of the grave forms of "traumatic neurosis," which are described in an attracting and interesting manner. Be it added, however, that according to Crocq's view, in accordance with that of Erichsen and Vibert, the organic lesion underlying these grave forms of "traumatic neurosis" is probably in most of the cases a chronic meningo-encephalomyelitis diffusa.

On the whole the subject is treated thoroughly and critically and the reader will find the book a convenient guide on the literature of the subject which it discusses.

B. ONUF.

CONTRIBUTION À L'ÉTUDE DES ÉTATS CATALEPTIQUES DANS LES MALADIES MENTALES. By Dr. P. Le Maitre. Paris 1895. G. Steinheil, Pub.

There are but few observations of idiopathic catalepsy. On the other hand the number of symptomatic catalepsies increases every day; one has observed them in typhoid fever, in uremia, in intermittent fever, in acute articular rheumatism. The purpose of the book before us was to study those catalepsies which occur in the course of the mental diseases. The author comes to the conclusion that the cataleptiform states observed in the insane are dependent upon a certain psychical state and have only the value of a symptom, which can develop in the majority of the mental diseases. Instead of representing a special morbid entity the cataleptic states are generally only a sign of stupor developing on the ground of heredity.

The plan according to which the contents are arranged is the following: The first chapter gives a historical review of the subject. The second chapter speaks of the general characteristics of the cataleptic states in mental diseases. Chapters three to eleven describe in detail the cataleptic conditions as observed in various forms of mental disease, viz., in toxic (alcoholic) delirium, in melancholia, in mental confusion, in mania (or rather in the depressive stage following mania), in periodic insanity, in the insanity of degeneracy (*délire des dégénérés*), in mental feebleness, congenital or acquired, and in epilepsy.

For each group observations are adduced, altogether of 19 cases. Five of these were personal and are very carefully described. The personal observations concerned are: case of catalepsy with echokinesia and echolalia in mental confusion, two cases in the group of mental degeneracy, and two cases in mental feebleness.